

sanction. Many countries are importing oil from Iraq and helping it out. You also know that. It is clearly a case of US pressure.

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Even US companies are doing benami transactions through Singapore.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: The Government is relenting before the US pressure on this question. It is an offer that is inherently helpful to this country.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The sanctions are not from the US. The sanctions are from the U.N. We have very good relations with Iraq. We are also negotiating with them and, at an appropriate time, we will have a good quantity of oil from them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**

#### **Procurement of Crude Oil by Public Sector Oil Companies from the International Market**

† \*84. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to Q state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been wide spread fluctuations in the price of crude oil in the international market during the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the average month-wise price of crude oil which prevailed during the period from April, 2000 to January, 2001 in the international market; and

(c) the purchases made by the public sector oil companies in the country during the said months, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The average month-wise prices of Brent (Dated) crude oil for

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[27 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

the period April, 2000 to January, 2001 as published in- Platts' Crude Oil Market Wire, are as under:—

Month	Brent (dated) (US dollar/barrel)	Brent (dated) (Rs./metric tonne)
April, 2000	22.65	7,440
May, 2000	27.63	9,12*9
June, 2000	29.80	10,022
July, 2000	28.49	9,601
August, 2000	30.11	10,334
September, 2000	32.73	11,249
October, 2000	30.91	10,721
November, 2000	32.58	11,463
December, 2000	25.12	8,866
January, 2001	25.66	9,024

(c) The quantity and value of crude oil imported during April, 2000 to January, 2001 (provisional) by Indian/Oil Corporation Ltd., the canalising agency for import of crude oil for public sector oil companies, are as under:—

Month	Quantity in million metric tonnes	Value in million US dollar	Value in Rs. crore
April, 2000	3.909	667.60	2,935.61
May, 2000	3.551	716.76	3,203.74
June, 2000	4.023	846.32	3,788.75
July, 2000	4.221	862.99	3,943.67
August, 2000	3.518	747.58	3,426.72
September, 2000	3.133	739.28	3,428.46
October, 2000	2.778	618.13	2,891.74

Month	Quantity in million metric tonnes	Value in million US dollar	Value in Rs. crore
November, 2000	3.917	873.12	4,109.69
December, 2000	4.041	675.80	3,160.62
January, 2001	3.611	628.25	2,915.10

#### Cost of production of the Cylinder

\*85. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of production of 14 kg. LPG in each refinery as reflected in the annual financial statements as on 31st March of 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000;

(b) the cost of filling of 14 Kg. LPG cylinder in the bottling plant of each refinery; the average cost of transportation of LPG in 14 Kg. Cylinder on above dates; and

(c) the delivered cost of 14 Kg. LPG in respective delivery zone of each refinery on 31st March of 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000; and the steps taken to reduce the cost of production of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The cost of production of LPG is not separately reflected in the annual financial statements of refineries.

(b) The capacity of a domestic LPG cylinder is 14.2 Kg. and not 14 Kg. The cost of filling of LPG cylinder varies from plant to plant. Most of the LPG bottling plants are owned by the oil marketing companies. The average of the cost reimbursed to the oil marketing companies towards the LPG filling charges have been as under:

As on	No. of Bottling Plants	Average cost (Rs. per cylinder)
31st March' 90	64	13.54.
31st March' 95	74	16.19

The filling charges of LPG for the year 1999-2000 is under finalization.

The transportation cost of LPG cylinder varies from location to